

Faith Works

Part 1

Steve Berger

May 6, 2018

Excited - praying/believing we will have a faith explosion that will be evidenced by God doing greater things in and through us for His glory!

Faith Works - it produces results, and its active, it's exercised not passive.

Faith is such a huge topic - significant foundation, reference points to go back to. Teaching, not preaching, listen, learn, take notes. Let's dive right in... quick definition...

➤ **Faith Is...having a strong conviction that something that is not yet, will be!**

1. General Observations

a) Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

b) Hebrews 4:2 - For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. Observe the three words that describe sin, and three words that represent God's pardon...

Fact - Faith comes as we hear the word, faith works/profits us when we mix it with the Word - it is a supernatural cycle that takes place, producing supernatural results.

2. Gift of Faith

a) 1 Corinthians 12:7-9 - But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all... to another faith by the same Spirit... "an extra measure for a given situation"

3. Miraculous Faith - Mk 10:52, Lk 8:50, Acts 14:8-10- faith credited for a miracle, **HEARD!**

a) Luke 17:19 - And He said to him, "**Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.**" (10 lepers who were healed as they went to the priest).

4. Rebuke for Lack of Faith - Matt 17:14-21 - extremely frustrated with disciples/demon

a) Mark 16:14 - Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

Question - Why would our unbelief frustrate God? It questions and/or denies His goodness, willingness, and ability. It's a character issue with God... ALSO...

5. Lack of Faith Quenches Miracles

a) Matthew 13:54-58 - When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?" So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "**A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.**" Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

6. Confess a Lack of Faith - Father of demon-possessed son... help, compassion...

a) Mark 9:23-24 - Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, **all things are possible to him who believes.**" Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

7. The Just shall Live by Faith - Hab 2:4, Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11- faith in God's word, ways, and works even though we don't see it yet (if you see it already, it's not faith!)

Observation - many never move beyond a saving faith, trusting Jesus to forgive your sins and save you... what about "faithing" that God can do the supernatural in you and through you now, in this life, in your circumstances, to display His glory?

Sadly - we reason ourselves out of faith instead of believing ourselves into the supernatural and the miraculous! We give all the reasons why something can't happen instead of believing the promises that say they can happen!

Fact - the just shall live by faith, in His word, ways, and works!

Let's move toward our anchor scripture- Hebrews...

- a) Context is everything, Jewish believers are losing faith, turning back due to persecution, writer has a word to them and us about faith, especially in tough times!
- b) Hebrews 10:38-11:3 - NOW **THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.** But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

8. Definition of Faith-

- a) Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- b) **Substance hoped for** - foundational, concrete, assurance that what you hope for will happen... substance and hope must be rooted in the word, ways and works of God!

Fact - every great act of faith displays a confident assurance that what is being hoped for will happen!

c) **Evidence of not seen** - proof, conviction that the unseen and not yet will become the seen and enjoyed!

Fact- every great act of faith displays a conviction that the currently unseen will become seen!

Listen - the substance and evidence of the world is that which is material, physical, tangible... the substance of the kingdom is that which is spiritual, supernatural and unseen.
Faith is other-worldly and yet it can work to affect our world!

Close with a story – great demonstration of the principals of faith that have been discussed

*a) Mark 5:25-34 - Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "**Who touched My clothes?**" But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, '**Who touched Me?**'" And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, "**Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.**"*

b) **She heard about Jesus** - His ways and works

c) **She said to herself** - "if I can touch Him, I'll be made well"- she has a confident assurance that what she's hoping for, though currently unseen, will be seen!

d) **Jesus said to her** - "your faith has made you well"

Friends - when our faith touches Jesus, His miracle power touches us! So glad she didn't reason or excuse her way out of her miracle.

"God doesn't expect the impossible from us. He wants us to expect the impossible from Him." - Evangelist D.L. Moody

Question - Where can we start expecting, believing, "faithing" God to do the impossible?
"All things are possible to him who believes"

Discussion Questions

- 1. Where in your life can you start expecting and believing for God to do the impossible?**
- 2. How would your life change if you started operating in greater degrees of Faith?**
- 3. If you KNEW that what you are praying for would eventually come to pass, how long would you be willing to wait for it to happen?**
- 4. What in your life is hindering you from operating with the expectancy and assurance with which you answered #3?**